


10-27-1983

## UA12/2/1 Homecoming Sports Special

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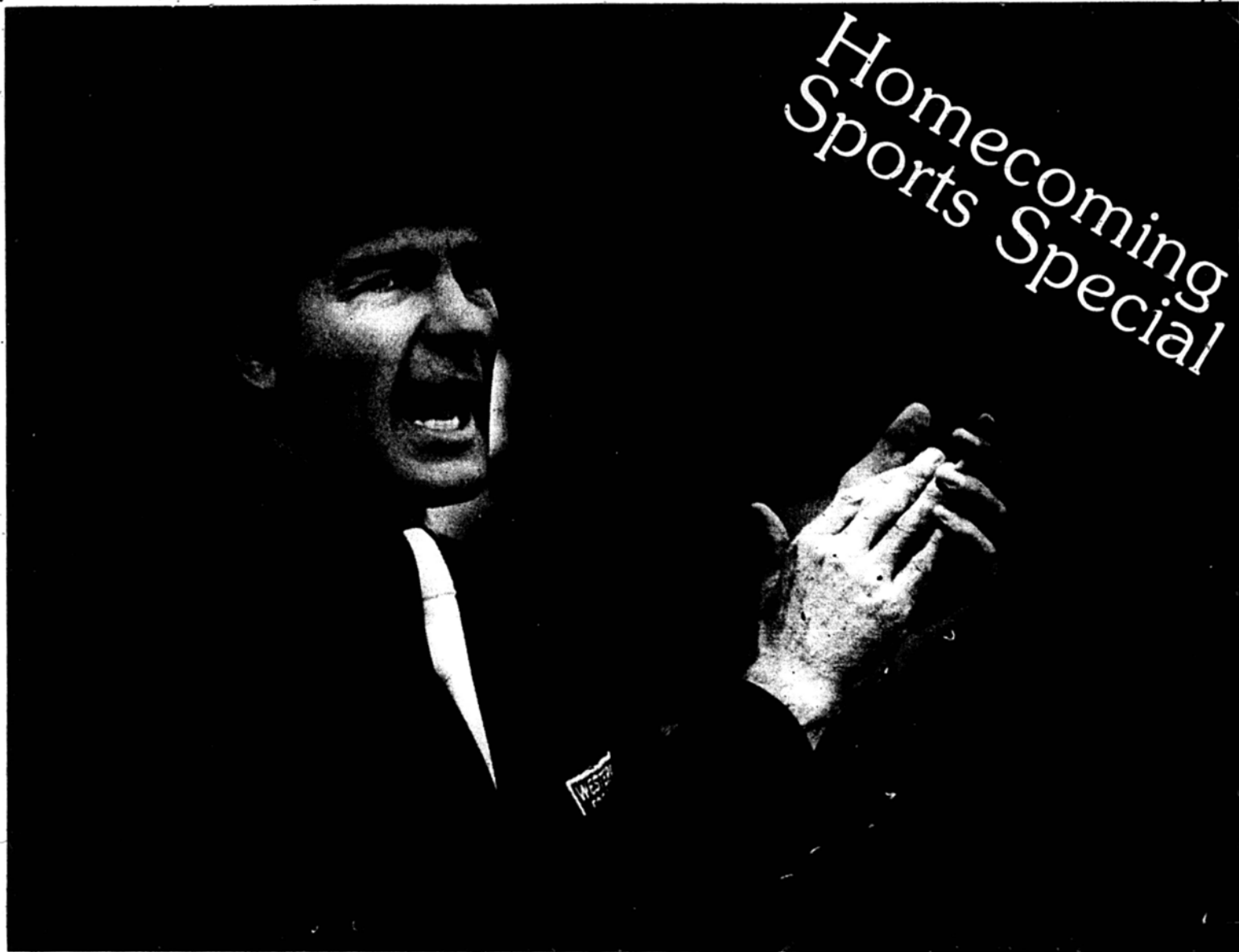
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# Homecoming Sports Special



1973 file photo by George Wedding

## Feix challenged in era of independence

By MARK C. MATHIS

Coach Jimmy Feix was a happy man last Sunday after his team had tied archrival Eastern, the No. 1 team in Division I-AA.

It was a feeling he hasn't had many times this season.

His Hilltoppers have won only once in seven games.

But on this day, the day after his 154th game as Western's head coach, Feix was all smiles. This time, the 10-10 tie was the same as a victory — as far as he was concerned.

A "moral victory" is what he called the Eastern-Western tie.

There was a day when the Hilltoppers didn't need moral victories, they had plenty of real ones to go around.

And, there was a day when Feix would have never been pleased with a tie.

But things have changed on the Hill.

Instead of being the gem of the Ohio Valley Conference, Western

has become an independent. In the meantime, Feix has been a man in transition in charge of a program in transition.

Feix said in a 1980 Herald story that one of his goals was to be the head football coach at Western longer than anyone else. That he's done.

With 105 victories, he is the winningest coach in Western history.

But some recent events have been out of Feix's control.

Western left the OVC last year in favor of more basketball exposure in the Sun Belt Conference. Western is the only Sun Belt school that plays football so the Hilltoppers were forced to become an independent.

And there has been talk of a de-emphasis of football, which has been the biggest reason that Western's athletic deficit is sizeable in times when money for education is hard to get.

After a 5-5 season in 1982, the 52-year-old Henderson native went to the Board of Regents with recommendations on how the football team might be improved, in-

cluding additional scholarships, additional assistant coaches and freeing the coaches from teaching duties.

The board granted Feix's requests, and he has taken it as a personal challenge to improve the football team.

It would've been easy for Feix to retire after his first season as an independent. He had fulfilled his goals and retirement would have been the easiest thing to do.

But Feix has never looked for easy ways out. He is a man still confident in himself and his ability.

He approached this season with talk of his team having "turned the corner." Phrases like "we're on the way back" abounded.

But instead the season has been terribly disappointing.

Only the Tennessee Tech win and the Eastern tie have relieved the frustration.

"I guess I was naive. I felt like after I had gone to the Board of Regents, I could turn it around in one year," Feix said.

One problem Feix has found is one he didn't anticipate. He says

there are problems with having too much time and not knowing what to do with it.

Feix said it will take two years to get adjusted to the new system.

"I talked to major college coaches to get ideas, and you have to learn how to utilize your time best," Feix said.

"We've just got to learn to work together. It's just like a new team, but the last week or two I thought we had real teamwork."

There was a time when Feix hired a lot of coaches, but they weren't additions to the staff. He had to replace his assistants who were using Western as a training ground — young coaches headed toward major college and professional coaching jobs.

But, aside from having an abundance of new and fresh ideas, Feix doesn't like a lot of turnover.

"I would rather have coaches stay a long time," Feix said. "I'm not against anyone's professional development, but I always thought this was the greatest place in the world to coach."

"I took it personally when so-

meone would want to leave," Feix said with a laugh.

Since 1978 when the National Collegiate Athletic Association separated football into Division I-A and I-AA, Eastern has been a predominant power, going to the finals of the I-AA playoffs four times and winning the championship twice.

The Hilltoppers won the OVC twice since '78, but both times they failed to get a playoff bid. Now the rules have changed to allow conference champions an automatic bid.

But that doesn't help since Western doesn't have a conference title to win.

The number of scholarships that an OVC team was allowed was set at 60, 15 fewer than NCAA would allow then would increase by five per year until the 75 limit was reached. Western increased its limit to 65 the next year. But when a budget crunch took effect

See CHALLENGE  
Page 18, Column 1

# Challenges face veteran coach

— Continued from Page 17 —

Western's limit stayed at 65.

These two factors, along with the Board of Regents not hiring an assistant coach after one left Feix's staff, contributed to what he called "the down turn" of the program.

"I always felt I could run Eastern and Murray out of the state in recruiting, and I felt we were getting good players. But when we lost the scholarship edge and coach, that hurt recruiting," Feix said.

There was also a time when Eastern and Murray were the most hostile opponents the Hilltoppers had. But even that has seemingly changed, at least in Eastern's case.

"I didn't sense a feeling of intensity and animosity because it wasn't a conference game," Feix said. "Their coaching staff talked about the edge being off the game. They had a tougher time than I did getting ready for the game."

Another dilemma that has faced Feix since Western went independent is the loss of some OVC opponents. Austin Peay and Tennessee Tech won't be on the schedule again and there has been talk of Middle Tennessee also dropping off future schedules.

"That will really work in our favor. We'll be playing a school or two from each I-AA conference, and a couple of independents. As we move into the new schedule we'll have to look to junior colleges more for recruits."

Eastern has built its program around junior college recruits and at the expense of other sports.

That could have happened to Feix when Western jumped to the Sun Belt. But it didn't happen.

"With the way the programs and boosters split up the money, I hope the other sports do well. If some baseball booster really wants to contribute a lot to baseball, then I get a little bit of that, and they get some of what is contributed to me," Feix said.

The changes Feix faces are beyond the obvious.

In this "me" generation, Feix said most of his players have changed in positive ways. But their problems have become more complex.

"They're more interested in family problems and more aware of world affairs and their future.

They're more realistic about their chances of playing professional football, also."

Most of the players have also changed their social habits. "I'm not going to be naive, but they don't seem to be as involved in drugs and alcohol as they were five or six years ago. It seemed like I was getting a player out of jail every week then," Feix said.

A year ago Feix was criticized when he didn't penalize starting quarterback Ralph Antone after he was charged with driving under the influence before the Homecoming game.

And Feix was frequently criticized for Western's lackluster offense.

He doesn't let it bother him though.

"I view it as comments by people who are misinformed," Feix said. "I don't take that negatively, you just have to establish who's in charge."

Feix has been the man in charge for 16 years, and even though he finds the job more challenging now than ever before, he looks to the day when his job won't be head coach at Western.

"Every time it's looked like I would get a chance to do something else, something would happen, like us going independent," Feix said.

"I feel I've given so much of my life to Western that I need to stay on because I know more about it (the football program) than anyone else. I just want to have a good football team."

"I would be tickled to death if they could take me out and not disrupt the program. But, they've got to find something for me to do," Feix said.

"They can't just get a rocking chair and put me in it. I would like to get back into teaching, but I'm not in a position to make that kind of mandate."

Feix realizes the pressure he's under, and he knows that the support of the regents and the athletic director won't last forever. But, as always he's confident he can get the job done.

"In two three or four years, if what we're doing now doesn't work then they will reevaluate," Feix said.

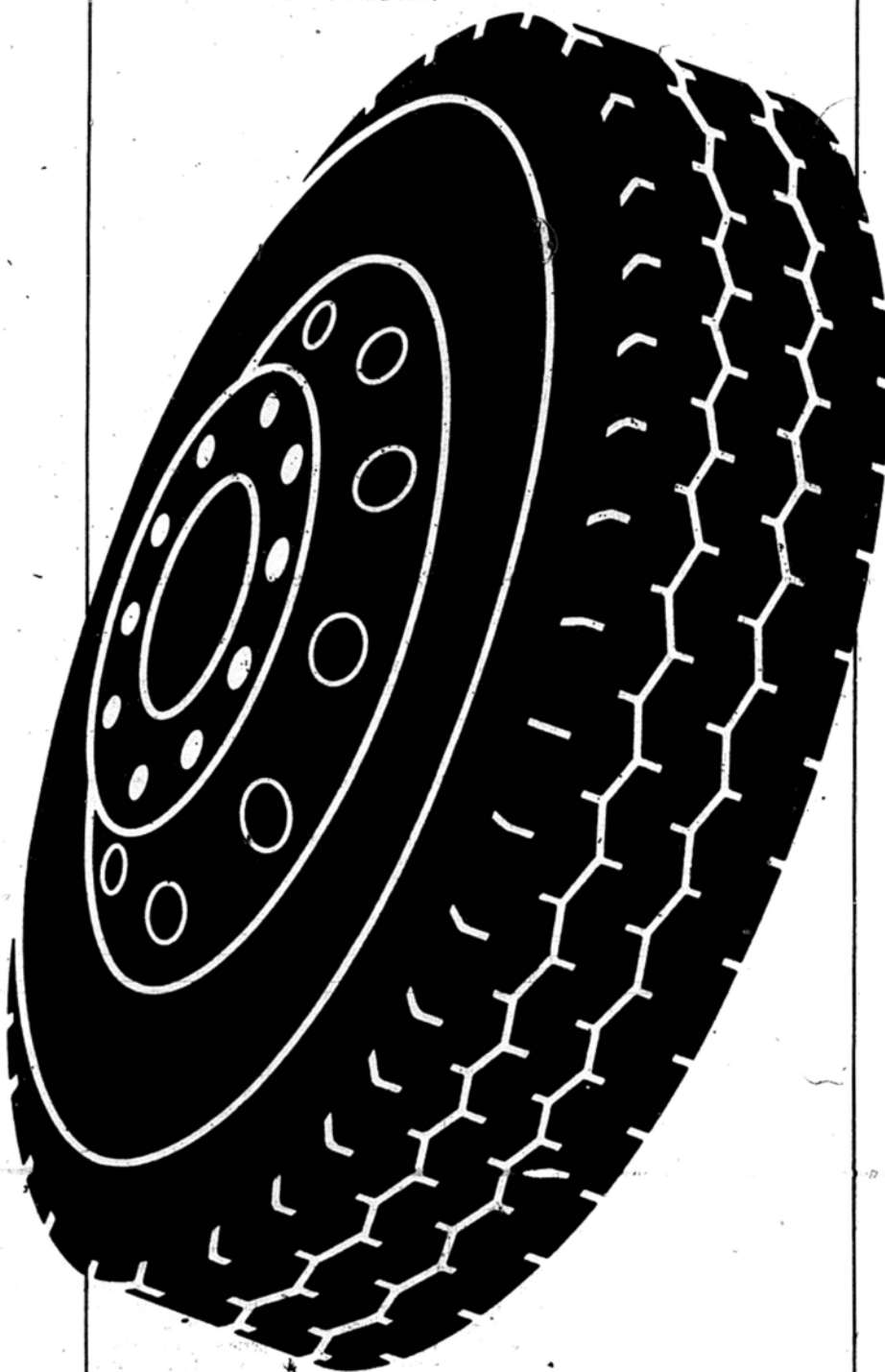
"It may come down to the day when we won't be able to compete. You've got to drive the car you can afford and you can't live beyond your means."

"I really believe in my heart that I can turn it around."

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### Aggregate record of WKU coaches

Coach	Seasons	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
M.A. Leiper (1913)	1	1	0	0	1.000
J.L. Arthur (1914-16)	3	6	7	2	.462
L.T. Smith (1920-21)	2	2	5	1	.313
E.A. Diddle (1922-28)	7	38	24	2	.613
Carl Anderson (1929-1934-37)	5	32	12	2	.727
James Elam (1930-31)	2	16	5	1	.762
Ernie Miller (1932)	1	8	1	0	.889
Jesse Thomas (1933-1946-47)	3	11	12	2	.480
W.L. Terry (1936-41)	4	25	9	3	.735
Arnold Winkenhofler (1942)	1	3	4	1	.429
Jack Clayton (1948-56)	9	50	33	2	.602
Nick Denes (1957-67)	11	57	39	7	.587
Jimmy Feix (1968-)	15	104	48	5	.678
<b>Totals</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>.633</b>

# A winner

## Bugel credits Western experience for success as football coach

By TOMMY NEWTON

Joe Bugel is a winner.

In 1963 Bugel was one of the leaders of Western's Tangerine Bowl champions.

Twenty years later he was assistant coach of Washington's Super Bowl champions.

Bugel, who began his coaching career as a graduate assistant here, made stops at several colleges and pro teams before joining the Redskins.

The Mundhall, Pa., native was a captain on the '63 team that finished 10-0-1 and beat the Coast Guard Academy 27-0 in the bowl game in Orlando, Fla.

"I've got a lot of memories of 1963," he said. "It gave us a championship."

Bugel ended his career at Western as an All-Ohio Valley Conference player.

However, his course to the Hill was indirect.

Bugel spent an uneventful year at the University of Miami before transferring to Western in 1960. He was working in a Pittsburgh, Pa., steel mill when Dr. William Ploumis, a dentist and Western alumnus, told Bugel about the school.

"I made a trip down there and never came back home," he said. "That was probably the best choice I ever made."

Bugel had to sit out one year, but earned a full scholarship the next season.

Frank Griffin, then an assistant coach, had seen Bugel make the move from running back to guard. Griffin said he changed the defense in 1962 to get the 215-pound player into the lineup.

Most teams used a seven or eight man defensive line, but Griffin switched to a four-man front. Bugel played middle linebacker.

In 1963, Bugel and the defense excelled. In 11 games Western allowed 79 points, while it scored 309. In the first three games, the defense gave up an average of 36 yards rushing and 89 passing.

Bugel, who patterned his hard-nosed play after that of Sam Huff, the all-pro middle linebacker of the New York Giants, was named OVC lineman of the week on Oct. 9, 1963, after the Toppers beat East Tennessee 14-6.

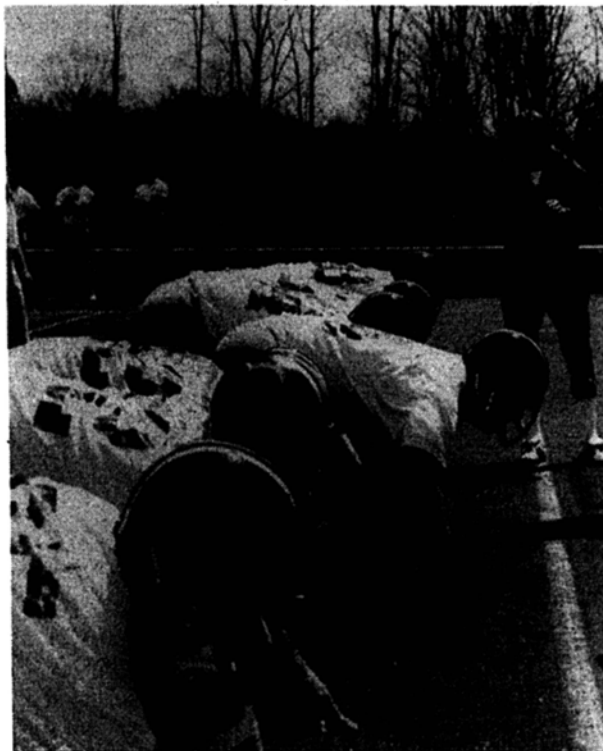
"He made a lot of tackles," Griffin said. "He always seemed to be where the ball was."

"Joe was a heck of a defensive player."

The only blemish on the '63 team's record was a 14-14 tie with Tampa in the second game. Along the way, Western beat Middle Tennessee 16-6, Evansville 54-14 and Murray 50-0.

The first unbeaten season in Western history was capped with a 27-0 win in the Tangerine Bowl. "The biggest thrill had to be playing against the Coast Guard and Otto Graham," Bugel said.

Graham, the former Cleveland Brown star, had led the Coast Guard to an 8-0-0 record. But his team was no match for the "rushing defense led by John Mut-



Joe Bugel, Washington Redskin assistant coach, watches his "Hogs" practice. Bugel played at Western from 1961-63 and coached here from 1964-68.

chler, Dale Lindsey and the red-dog tactics of Joe Bugel" that held the Cadets to minus 10 yards rushing, according to a January 1964 Herald story.

Griffin called the 1963 team the best ever in the OVC. "We had a lot of talent."

The team was led by All-OVC picks Mutchler, Lindsey, Bugel, Harold Chambers and Jim Burt. "My biggest memory was the closeness of the football team," Bugel said. "The players were great individuals, but we really meshed as a football team."

While Bugel played offensive guard and middle linebacker, Western went with separate offensive and defensive units. "It was just a great array of talent."

But Lee Murray, who was captain of the '62 team, was "probably the toughest guy pound for pound that I've ever been associated with."

Murray, program coordinator for the university center, roomed with Bugel. "We used to sit around and talk about being coaches," Murray said.

Bugel credited head coach Nick Denes and assistants Jimmy Feix and Griffin with dispersing that talent. "If they hadn't done that, we would have had a lot of good players sitting on the bench."

Griffin used his own means to motivate and mesh the offensive unit. The idea of the "Hogs" — used by Washington last season — was begun by Griffin.

"I called them hogs to make them a little mad," Griffin said, "but I also tried to motivate them."

Bugel credits Griffin with helping him learn about coaching.

In 1964 Bugel was a graduate assistant with responsibility for the offensive line. Griffin "more or less tutored me that year and recommended me for the job."

Getting the job as assistant coach in 1965 was the break Bugel needed. "I was real fortunate. The program was very well established."

And the lessons Bugel learned from Griffin weren't just about coaching. "Frank Griffin meant so much to me. I learned a lot about the game from him and also a lot about life."

Bugel learned that a coach needed to be a friend and not just a coach. "We always had someone to talk to," he said. "If you needed help you could rely on your coach."

"The staff made it a family thing. And we're (Washington) using that idea now."

Bugel was Western's line coach until 1968, when he went to the U.S. Naval Academy. He coached at Navy for four years before moving to Iowa State for one year.

Bugel's next assignment was as assistant to Woody Hayes at Ohio State. "The years with Western and Woody Hayes were the best experiences of my life."

While Bugel's family stayed in Iowa, he stayed with Hayes for a few months. "We talked football and caught up on history. He was really good to me." Hayes was criticized after striking a Clemson player in 1978 and losing his job,

See BUGEL Page 21, Column 1

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# Jackson's dream became a reality

By STEVE THOMAS

**L**ittle boys have dreams. Clarence Jackson said he'd someday be a professional football player. But what makes Jackson's dream special is that it came true. He made it to the National Football League with the New York Jets in 1974. And for three seasons he lived a fantasy, playing alongside Joe Namath, John Riggins, Emerson Boozer, among others.

"Playing pro ball was actually a dream," Jackson said. "It was something I always dreamed of, either becoming a baseball player or a football player."

"I couldn't actually believe I was there. It's like I've been on an ego trip ever since."

Jackson, who came to Western in 1970, played four years on Topper teams that compiled a 35-7-1 record. The best season, of course, was in 1973 when Western suffered its only loss in 13 games to Louisiana Tech in the Camellia Bowl in Sacramento, Calif., the NCAA Division II championship game.

Jackson was a key member of that team, but he had a handicap that caused the pros to overlook him until the 16th round of the draft.

No matter where he went or where he played — from sandlot ball to the pros — Jackson had to continually prove that he could overcome the handicap of size. In the big man's world of professional football, the odds were that Jackson didn't stand a chance. When he graduated from college he was only 5-9 and weighed 170 pounds.

"I always felt I had to prove myself more than most people," Jackson said.

And he did prove himself, time and time again.

Jackson averaged 17 yards per carry as a senior at Austin East High School in Knoxville, Tenn. That was more than enough reason for Coach Jimmy Feix to take a look at him.

But even then, if he had been a little bigger, Jackson probably would have been snatched up by a major college football team.

Jackson had an outstanding career at Western. Other players have had better statistics, but Jackson was the type of player a coach wishes he had every year. "I still keep looking for that," Feix said.

"He had great speed and explosiveness and was an excellent player," Feix said. "Clarence was more physical than most of the small players you see."

"I thought if anyone of his size would make it (to the pros) he would," Feix said.

Jackson gained 403, 664, 731 and 786 yards rushing in his four years at Western. As a sophomore year he set a school rushing record that still stands, gaining 297 yards

against Butler.

In nine games he gained over 100 yards, a remarkable feat considering that he and John Embree split time at tailback throughout their college careers.

Jackson's only solo shot in the four years came after Embree dislocated his shoulder in the first game of the 1973 season against Appalachian State. Jackson scored three touchdowns that day and was named OVC Offensive Player of the Week.

In the second game Jackson scored three more touchdowns and ran for 140 yards. In the fifth game he gained 105 yards and scored another touchdown. Jackson then ripped through Eastern's defense for 143 yards.

When Embree returned, Feix kept both in the starting lineup. From then on, Jackson and Embree shared the glory.

The team continued to win. Jackson scored touchdowns, Embree scored touchdowns and everybody was happy.

That was until the championship game against Louisiana Tech. Western lost 34-0 to spoil the Toppers' and Jackson's dream of a national title.

"It was a damper on the season," Jackson said. "Overall we looked at it as a great season."

"I still think they're (the fans) going to look back and say we were one of the greatest teams," Jackson said.

He said he didn't want to make excuses for the loss, but he felt the team "just burnt out." He said after the Grambling game in the semifinals, the team was beat up badly. He also added that the rain and the cold during the game didn't help matters as Western wasn't able to utilize its speed.

Feix said that season is one he'll always remember and Jackson was one of the main reasons.

"He was what made us go," Feix said. "He played with that aggressive, and positive attitude. John (Embree) was more of a finesse player."

Jackson said what makes the season so special for him is the attitude of the team.

"I thought that season that everybody had it in their minds that we just couldn't get beat," he said. "We said, 'This is the year.'"

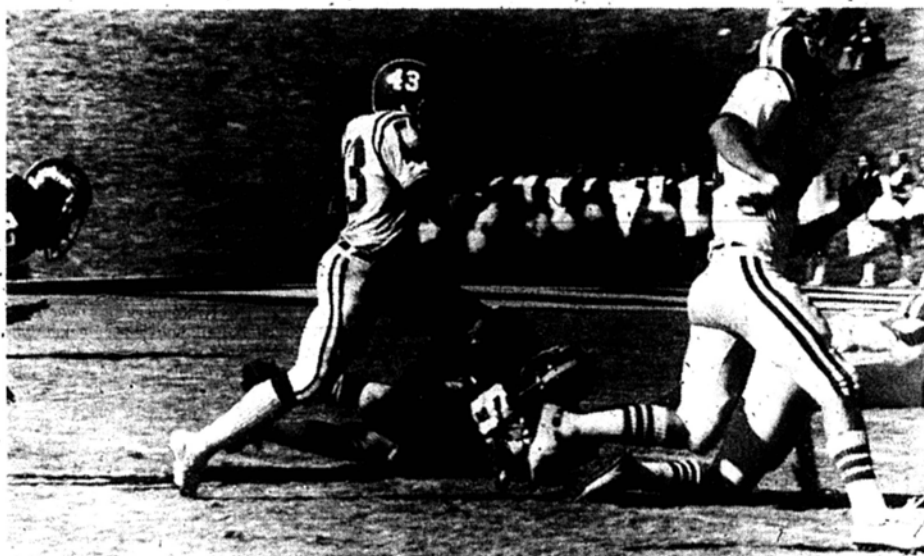
Although the Toppers didn't win, both Western and Jackson got national exposure. Jackson finished the season as the runner-up in the OVC Player of the Year balloting and felt he'd go high in the professional draft.

He was wrong.

Only one team, the New York Jets, was willing to touch him. And all they were willing to sacrifice was one of their next to the last choices.

"I told somebody if I made it to a training camp I would make it," Jackson said.

And Jackson made it.



Above, Clarence Jackson scores a touchdown against Eastern. Right, Jackson gains some of 2,584 yards as a Topper, second only to Dickie Moore. Jackson later played for the New York Jets.



"I couldn't believe I was there meeting people like Joe Namath and Emerson Boozer," Jackson said.

"It (the training camp) was hard, very hard. You wondered how you could stand up to them (the other players). The one advantage I had was I was faster than them."

It was Jackson's speed that gave him the edge.

"Several times people came in and knocked me down," Jackson said. He kept getting up, just as he kept getting up when all those people in high school and college told him he was too small to play football.

The Jets thought maybe there was a place in the big man's world for Jackson. They kept him as a kickoff and punt return specialist, although he eventually played wide receiver and running back. Jackson was one of the first small men to make it in the NFL as a punt return specialist.

"It was a blessing I made it as far as I did," Jackson said. "Speed was what kept me there as long as I did."

Jackson said he would always remember playing in the backfield with Namath at quarterback and Riggins at the other running back slot.

Part of his memories include Namath and the pain he went through to play. "He was really dedicated. He loved the game."

Before and after every game Namath would have to pack his knees in ice. But in all that pain Jackson said he never once heard Namath complain.

He also remembers his first touchdown, which came against the Chicago Bears. Namath handed the ball off to Riggins, who fumbled when he got hit. Jackson was behind the play and he grabbed the ball and ran for a 20-yard touchdown. That was one of three

touchdowns that Jackson scored in the NFL.

But New York's best record while Jackson was playing was 7-7 in 1975.

And in 1976 the Jets ran into problems, Jackson said. "Everybody seemed to get hurt and they needed a blocking back and a quarterback."

The injured included Riggins, Namath (who was near the end of his career), backup quarterback Mike Adamle and Boozer.

Jackson said the Jets' front office told him they needed to get a quarterback so they placed him on waivers. Cleveland picked up Jackson, and he was told he would start for the Browns.

"The guy's place I was supposed to take suddenly started playing good," Jackson said.

Jackson didn't get into a game at Cleveland and the Browns put Jackson on waivers. He said he

was disappointed and felt Cleveland gave him "a dirty deal."

Jackson returned to New York and went into seclusion.

"I didn't want to be bothered by nobody," Jackson said.

During that time Jackson didn't call home to his parents and they didn't know where to find him.

What Jackson didn't know was that the Washington Redskins had picked him on waivers, but no one could contact Jackson to tell him. When he did find out, the Redskins had already found someone else.

After sitting out a couple of years, he decided to see if he could play again. He went to New York and later to Louisville where he played semi-pro football. But he said his knee kept swelling up, and he had to have it drained periodically.

See JACKSON  
Page 23, Column 1

# 1973 team was 'awesome'

By BRENT WOODS

In 1973, Coach Jimmy Feix said his team was "not as awesome as people have said."

However, that squad was the closest thing to "awesome" that Western football fans have seen in about 10 years.

That team, which will be honored Saturday, dominated the Ohio Valley Conference, posted a 12-1 record and appeared in the first Division II national championship game.

The season began with high rankings from various national polls; the Toppers were rated third by The Associated Press and fifth by United Press International.

Western returned nine defensive, and eight offensive players from its 1972 OVC runner-up team and seemed to have the personnel to take the crown from Tennessee Tech and outlast talented Middle Tennessee.

Feix, though, questioned the squad's depth and quickness. He had no doubts about the Hilltopper's strength and experience — two features that played a major role in the season's success.

## Western vs. Appalachian State

Western opened the season of "great expectations" with a convincing 42-7 win over Appalachian State at Boone, N.C. John Embree, brother of Topper tailback Danny Embree, ran back a 99-yard kickoff return, Charlie Johnson kicked a 76-yard punt and senior tailback Clarence Jackson scored on a 86-yard punt return.

The defense, which forced two fumbles and collected five interceptions, set up much of the scoring.

## Western vs. Austin Peay

After an open date, the Hilltoppers went to Clarksville, Tenn. Jackson, who played the entire game because of an injury to Embree, scored three touchdowns as Western won 28-0. Leo Pecken-

paugh took over the quarterbacking duties from Dennis Tomek.

## Western vs. East Tennessee

The Toppers appeared for the first home game in the friendly confines of Smith Stadium to romp over the highly rated Buccaneers 30-0. Jackson scored two more touchdowns, while Porter Williams grabbed one TD pass and made several other crucial catches.

## Western vs. Western Carolina

Peckenpaugh and Tomek combined for 18 completions and 277 yards as the Toppers dazzled this non-conference foe with its passing attack. The running game was even better as Western collected a record 508 yards of total offense in the 45-7 win.

## Western vs. Tennessee Tech

The Hilltoppers avenged a 30-10 loss to Tech in 1972 by blanking the Golden Eagles 42-0. The stingy Topper defense held Tech to only 35 yards passing.

## Western vs. Eastern

This was perhaps the finest game of the year, as the Hilltoppers invaded Hanger Field and blanked the Colonels 35-0. Western racked up 473 yards of offense despite four fumbles. The defense collected its fourth shutout of the young season.

## Western vs. Morehead

It was homecoming, and the Toppers disposed of the Eagles 34-7. Morehead's touchdown marked the first points scored by an OVC opponent in the '73 season. Peckenpaugh scored two touchdowns, and the defense forced two fumbles and intercepted four passes.

## Western vs. Middle Tennessee

The Toppers eighth straight win was probably the sweetest revenge of the season. The Hilltoppers crushed Middle at Murfreesboro

42-6 after the Blue Raiders had won the last three times the teams had met. Peckenpaugh hit on 12 of 19 passes for 214 yards and three touchdowns. The win clinched a tie for the OVC crown.

## Western vs. Butler

The Hilltoppers ran over Butler at Indianapolis 48-6. Peckenpaugh broke Jimmy Feix' 1952 record by throwing his 31st touchdown pass.

## Western vs. Murray

The Racers led 13-6 at halftime, but couldn't hold the lead as the Toppers posted a 32-27 victory. Murray could have tied Western for the OVC title with a win. Peckenpaugh played his last college game and passed for four touchdowns.

## Western vs. Lehigh

Four Western seniors, including Peckenpaugh, were declared ineligible to compete in post-season play because of the NCAA's "5-year rule." Tomek stepped into the starting quarterback spot and hit on 60 percent of his passes to lead the Hilltoppers to a 25-16 victory at Smith Stadium.

## Western vs. Grambling

Tomek was intercepted six times, but he kept his cool to throw a 22-yard touchdown pass to Dave Maley in the fourth quarter to secure the 28-20 win at Baton Rouge, La. The Topper defense recovered five Tiger fumbles.

## Western vs. Louisiana Tech

The Camellia Bowl was played in Sacramento, Calif. The Bulldogs took control early by taking advantage of good field position brought on by bad Western punting (the Hilltoppers averaged only 33 yards per punt).

Tech won the game 34-0, claimed the national championship and etched the first losing mark in the Hilltopper's "almost perfect" season.

## Bugel credits Western with success

— Continued from Page 19 —

but Bugel retained his respect for the dynamic coach.

"He's a tough character. Anytime you're successful you have to be tough."

Bugel then made the jump to the National Football League with the Detroit Lions. After two years there, he joined Bum Phillips' staff at Houston, where he coached the offensive line until 1981.

"Bum Phillips put fun in football," Bugel said.

Bugel's latest boss, Joe Gibbs, also knows when to have fun, he said. "Gibbs is a man's man. He knows when to get serious and when to laugh."

"Of course, it's really fun to win."

The past year has definitely been fun for the Redskins. Bugel's offensive line opened the holes, while John Riggins ran over the Miami Dolphins in last year's Super Bowl.

But the offense isn't structured around the run. "Everybody is in-

novative," he said. "We try to keep boredom out of the game. The players respond to that."

"We have a lot of blue-collar players and take advantage of their abilities. But we also have superstars who play like superstars."

Bugel has been associated with several good players. He's coached Leon Gray and Bob Young. His lines have opened holes for Riggins and Houston's Earl Campbell and have protected Ken Stabler and Joe Theismann.

"I've never been to a place where we didn't have good players."

Murray and other Western coaches still keep in contact with Bugel. Murray went to the Houston training camp while Bugel was there. Some of Western's staff spends a day at the Redskin camp, Bugel said.

"I'm still close to Stumpy Baker (Western's defensive line coach).

He took a liking to us young folks."

"He took me under his wing and showed me the ropes."

After the Super Bowl win, Bugel said he was proud that Western could share in the thrill.

Bugel was offered a head coaching position with Pittsburgh of the United States Football League, but he turned it down. "I kind of want to stay in the NFL. As a coach you've got to be patient."

"People take football serious up here. I'm in 'hog heaven.'"

Griffin and Murray think Bugel will be a NFL head coach soon. "He deserves it," Griffin said.

Bugel has made several moves in his career and all have been to good programs. His next move could be to head coach, but he "wants to stay put" with the Redskins.

"After leaving Miami I was wandering," Bugel said. "I've got to give those people (at Western) credit for where I am now."



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# USA TODAY SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1983

## SPORTSLINE

A QUICK READ ON THE TOP SPORTS NEWS OF THE DAY

By LEE GRACE

**D**on Collins has been the Across the USA sports editor for Gannett's USA Today since its first issue Sept. 15, 1982.

Verenda Smith, who's also been with USA Today since it started, has covered the America's Cup and a little of everything else.

And Jerry Potter has been covering virtually everything since his arrival on the USA Today in September.

All three have some other things in common. All were sports editors of the College Heights Herald. And they all worked together at The Clarion-Ledger in Jackson, Miss.

In Jackson, they worked for another former Herald sports editor, Tom Patterson, and with another former Herald sports editor, Jim Grove.

Patterson is now executive sports editor of The Denver Post and Grove is at the Orlando Sentinel.

Potter came to Western in the fall of 1966 from Thelma, a small town in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, not really looking for a career in journalism. He graduated in December 1970 with a degree in political science.

But he returned the following fall.

"When I went home to Thelma," Potter said, "the best job I could get was selling hardware."

"I decided I didn't want to sell hardware all my life, so I came back to school to study journalism."

His first semester back, Potter became sports editor, a position he held the next two semesters.

It wasn't an easy time to be sports editor. Because of a dispute over politics in February 1970 several Herald staff members had quit the staff and the paper was in a rebuilding process.

"I was one of the ones who came back because of the changes made," Potter said. "And one of the changes was when Dave Whitaker (head of the journalism department) was brought in."

"He and Bob Adams (Herald adviser) were what turned that department around," he said.

Potter said his interest in journalism wasn't something that developed overnight. He wrote for his high school paper and wrote for the Herald during his first stay at Western.

"But it wasn't something I ever wanted to commit myself to," he said. "I always had other goals in my life."

"All I had ever wanted to do in my years in journalism was to prove that I could do something well."

Potter finished his classwork in the spring of 1972, but never applied for his journalism degree. It didn't hurt him, though, when he applied for a job.

"I had been in contact with the people at the (Nashville) Banner while I was in school," he said. "It just happened that a job at the Banner opened up about the time I graduated."

"I applied for it and got it." At the Banner, Potter learned to "eliminate clutter from his writing. This skill has come in handy at USA Today."

"When I went to the Banner, they didn't have a lot of space," Potter said. "I was covering the Ohio Valley Conference and they didn't want to devote a lot of space to the OVC."

"So I learned to write all I had to say in about 15 inches," he said.

After three years at the Banner, Potter got a call from Patterson at The Clarion-Ledger.

"The first person I thought of when I came to Jackson was Jerry," Patterson said. "I used him as a good foundation for my sports staff. He got all the good assignments and he gave us good golf coverage, something we didn't have before he got here."

Three years later, Potter moved to Washington, D.C., and USA Today.

At USA Today, Potter is in the second month of a 90-day loan plan.

"At the end of the 90 days," he said, "I could be offered a job or I could not be offered one."

"This (situation) is not a problem, though. It was something I really wanted to do. I turned down a job in Reno, Nevada, to get this opportunity."

Potter said he isn't worried about what will happen in December and that his main concern has been doing the best job he could do.

"I've always worked in the Southeast on a regional paper. And when you stay in an area for a long time, you wonder if you could work on a national level or for a big metropolitan paper."

"I just wanted to see if I'm a competent reporter and see if I could write on a national level."

But if it wasn't for some people

at Western, Potter might not have developed the sports knowledge needed in the past 10 years.

"I don't remember so much the events I covered at Western but the people I met," Potter said. "They had some wonderful coaches and some men who taught me a lot about sports."

One of the coaches was former assistant basketball coach Benny Dees, who was brought to Western by then basketball coach Jim Richards. Dees is now an assistant at Alabama.

"I guess I don't have a closer friend in the world than Benny," Potter said. "He and I have always been friends and hope we will remain friends for as long as we live."

But the person that probably meant the most to Potter was Dr. Burch Oglesby, head of the physical education and recreation department.

"Dr. Oglesby was the track coach at Western and that was the first sport I ever covered," Potter said. "He taught me everything I ever learned about track."

"If there was anyone I would go to when I was upset, it was him," he said. "The first person to express any concern about me was him."

"I may have forgotten a lot about track and field, but I haven't forgotten the support he gave me."

Smith really wasn't looking at a journalism career when she came to Bowling Green in the fall of 1972 from Benton.

"I went to Western interested as going as far away from home as I could afford, and that happened to be Bowling Green," Smith said.

Like Potter, she arrived when the Herald was in transition.

"A year or so before I came," Smith said, "a lot of the staff had left so they were looking for communication majors with good English grades in high school."

"Before school started I got a call asking if I wanted to write for the Herald," she said. "All I'd written in high school was baseball, but they said they needed a baseball writer and asked if I was interested."

Two years later, in the fall of 1974, she became the first female sports editor.

"I was covering sports about a year before anyone noticed I was a woman," Smith said. "I was immediately accepted."

"I was surprised how liberal and

accepting people were and that they let me do things," she said. "When I got out of college, I found it was harder to do the same things I did in college."

Her experience at Western enabled her to get three summer internships and a job in St. Petersburg, Fla., after graduation. After three years in St. Petersburg, she joined the other Westerners at The Clarion-Ledger. She was there three years before moving to USA Today.

But before she left the Clarion-Ledger, she made a lasting impression.

Ed "Too Tall" Jones, a Dallas Cowboy lineman, had his first and only professional boxing match in Jackson. After the fight, Smith took the fight's promoter out on the town while trying to get a story.

What she didn't know was that the promoter was being sought by the police for assaulting a television cameraman. After she got her interview, she drove him to the airport and he left without the police ever catching him.

That escapade didn't escape her boss' attention. "Now, every time a convict escapes, we say that Verenda has him," Patterson said.

"The best thing Western does is that it doesn't teach about journalism," Smith said. "You can learn about journalism from any good school in the country. What Western taught me was how to get a job."

"They were very diligent about getting people in to talk about jobs and how to get jobs," she said. "There were seminars held that

**TODAY'S TIP-OFF**  
**NBA referees could walk . . .** on pick-et lines at several exhibition basketball games next week if contract negotiations with National Basketball Association representatives remain stalled.

**Kentucky schools get a jump . . .** on most of the USA when college basketball practice opens this week. Western Kentucky's Hilltoppers and University of Kentucky's Wildcats will begin fall workouts at 12:01 a.m. EDT Saturday, the first legal practice date.



## Three take the high road

## Players searching for explanations

By Jerry Potter  
USA TODAY

David Carter is a 7-year veteran of the Houston Oilers. By now, he should know what makes a team win and what causes a team to lose.

But he doesn't know what's wrong with the Oilers, who will try to break a 14-game losing streak Sunday when they play host to the Kansas City Chiefs.

"If we knew why we were losing we could correct the problems and get on with the

gave you the chance to meet the sources that could get you a job.

"Western and the Herald taught you there's more to journalism than just writing headlines and laying out pages," Smith said.

"I'll always remember the staff as the motley crew," Smith said. "It was our family. I never saw such a bunch of misfits."

"We were all very good at what we did," she said. "But we didn't fit into one group."

"I also remember that Mr. Adams was such a good copy editor. A few words here or there were such a big difference. I always thought he should yell at us more, but it was his way of getting you to do things on your own and that's how you learn."

She said that there are drawbacks working for a newspaper. The main one is the amount of time a reporter spends on the road. She says, though, that the traveling allows a reporter to develop his or her resources.

"I say sometimes we don't get paid to write," she said. "We get paid to get there and get the story."

She recalls a situation during the 1983 college draft. Smith said the paper couldn't reach Frank Kush, Baltimore Colts' coach, to get his reaction to the owner trading away John Elway, the team's No. 1 draft pick.

"We tried to reach him all day by phone," Smith said. "We couldn't reach him so my editor told me to catch the next train to Baltimore."

See THREE

Page 23, Column 1



CARTER: Co-captain has started 29 consecutive games for Oilers.

# Three former sports editors working at USA Today

— Continued from Page 22 —

and sit outside his office until I got an interview.

"When I got to his office," she said. "I found him outside planting flowers. We had a long talk and I got a good interview out of it."

That's one reason Smith believes USA Today is better than its critics tend to believe.

"USA Today is not your typical paper," she said. "It's not designed to fill the needs of an ordinary regional paper. It breaks some rules, but that's why newspaper people don't like it."

"But we still have people who tell us they like and enjoy it," Smith said. "They say how much they like the graphics and the writing and that's all that matters."

Smith said she isn't sure how long she'll stay at the paper and that it's not the type of place a person would stay at for the next 20 years because of the restrictions placed on writers.

She said it "wouldn't break my heart to go back to Jackson," and that she could go back to her old house and continue where she left off last year.

But even if she did decide to leave, she said she would never forget the unexpected things that happened to her while at USA Today.

"I never expected to be talking to Kush that one morning," Smith said. "And when I came, I never thought I'd be covering the America's Cup either."

Don Collins made a couple of "wrong" decisions about college. But once the decisions were changed, they proved to be the right moves.

His first "wrong" move came in the fall of 1972 when he entered Murray. One semester later he was heading for Western.

"I wanted to go as far away from home that I could," Collins said. "I found out, though, that I didn't like that idea at all."

"I had a friend at Western so I decided to transfer down there to be with him," he said. "The funny thing about that was he dropped

out the next semester. After I got here, though, I never regretted my decision."

His second change came after the national championship football game in 1975 when Western lost a heartbreaker to Northern Michigan 16-14. Not only did he realize what it was like to be a real life journalist, he also realized he didn't want to be a writer.

"Here we were, a college newspaper, and we were covering Western like any other daily," Collins said. "On three consecutive weekends, we went to Cedar Falls, Iowa; Baton Rouge, La.; and Sacramento, Calif. The paper paid for it all, and we felt like real journalists."

"It taught me, though, that I wasn't cut out to be a writer, that I was meant to be an editor. I really didn't want to live out of a suitcase all my life."

The Brandenburg native was sure about his major when he came to Bowling Green, but it wasn't necessarily because he liked journalism.

"When I was in high school," Collins said, "journalism was known as an easy credit and I originally took it because of that."

"As I got into it," he said. "I found that I enjoyed it and that I was good at it."

"Even now, I look forward every morning to getting up and going to work. I get a pleasure out of working, which says something."

At USA Today, Collins is editor of the Across the USA section, which gives a rundown of what's happening in each state. On certain days a reader in Maine can pick up the paper and see how the top high school teams in Texas fared in the last week.

Collins said he does miss writing, but the satisfaction he gets from taking charge of a group of people and helping them "with their writing makes up for the loss."

Patterson said he met Collins at Western. "I was working at The Courier-Journal during the glory days of Western football," Patterson said. "I spent a lot of time with him and saw the potential he had."

"When he came to Jackson, we

put him on an inside position covering high school football," he said. "He took control of that section and showed excellent skills of managing personnel. You could just see the Western experience in him."

"When Gannett started USA Today, they took the best people from the papers they owned. They immediately took Collins and placed him where he is now."

Collins gained some of his managing skills before he got to Jackson. He was Herald sports editor for two semesters — spring

and fall 1975 — as well as the sports editor of The Gleaner in Henderson from December 1976 to March 1977.

And Collins still remembers where he came from, especially when it comes to comparing journalism schools.

"Western is a great source of pride for me," Collins said. "For a long time, I fought the notion that the University of Missouri School of Journalism and Northwestern were the greatest."

"We don't have to take a backseat to either," he said. "We

might not have the names that those two do, but the talent is just as good."

He also said that his time at Western was the best preparation anyone could ever ask for and that it was fun, too.

"We put in a lot of tremendous hours, but you never really noticed that," Collins said. "The thing that pleased me was that when I got out of school I was prepared for what I was going to face. I don't think a lot of people who come out of some schools have as much preparation as we did."

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## Jackson says he can still play

— Continued from Page 20 —

He remembers the day he decided to quit football for good. His Louisville Trackers were playing at Birmingham. Before the game he told his family that it would be his last game.

But he hasn't quit thinking about football.

"Anytime football season rolls around I smell the grass," Jackson said. "I used to get frustrated at this time of the year. I stayed irritable. I didn't even want to watch it (football) on TV."

"I think I could still play with somebody," Jackson said. "I still believe I've got two good years in me, but we'll never know. I enjoy watching it but it's just not there anymore."

The most important thing to him now is his family. Jackson, his wife Daisy and son Clarence Damon, 5, live in Louisville. Jackson is a lab technician at Philip Morris Inc.

He hopes his son plays football. "I'm simply going to expose him to the game, but I won't make him

play," Jackson said. "I'm not going to force him into any kind of sport."

Jackson said he'll never be able to forget the game.

"I think it's something once you get a taste of it in your system you never forget it," Jackson said. "I want to be a coach, but the shift I'm working won't let me. I was helping out with a couple of high school but I got put on second shift."

Jackson said he was an assistant to former Western player William "Jelly" Green at Shawnee High School and then with Green at Manual High. He said he hopes he gets the opportunity to help coach again.

But Jackson still has trouble making people believe his boyhood dreams came true.

"I tell people I played pro ball and they still tell me I'm too small."

But Jackson knows his dreams did come true.

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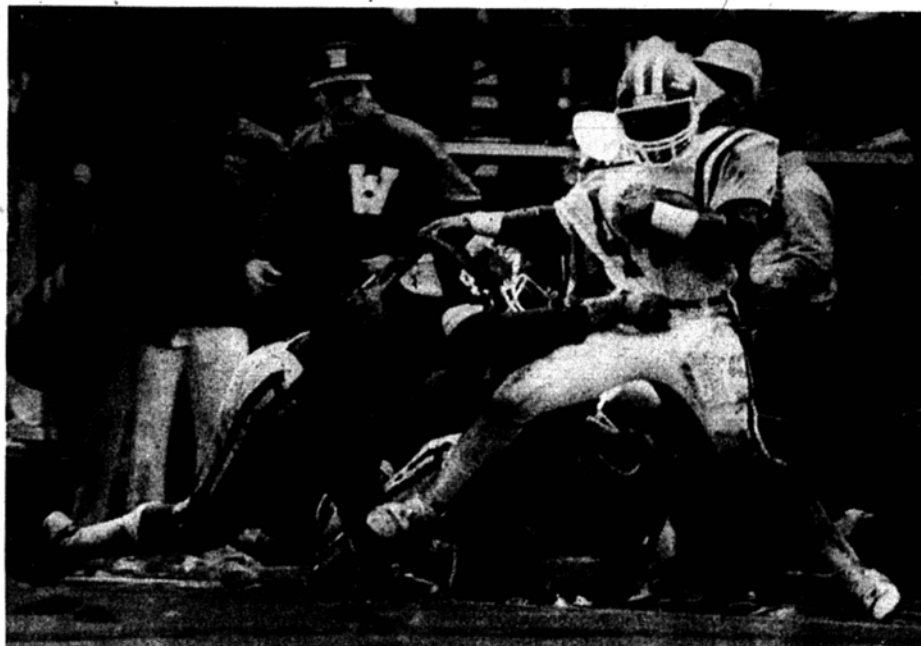


Photo by Rick Musacchio

Western tailback Glendell Miller is tackled by an Eastern player during Saturday's game in Richmond. The final score was 10-10, ending the Colonels' 34-game home win streak.

## Miller questionable for Homecoming

By LEE GRACE

Western may be without its top scorer Saturday against Morehead.

Tailback Glendell Miller, who has scored six of the team's 11

### Football

touchdowns, is listed as questionable by trainer Bill Edwards. Miller injured his right thigh against Eastern when he slid into a concrete wall after being pushed out of bounds.

Without Miller, the Toppers will be risking their three-game Homecoming winning streak. And the last Homecoming loss was a 3-0 setback by Morehead in 1979.

Fortunately for Western, Morehead comes into the game 0-7. The Eagles rank last in the Ohio Valley Conference in offense and next to last in defense.

"We've struggled and we've played a lot of young kids," Eagle coach Steve Lonney said.

#### MOREHEAD at WESTERN

Site: Smith Stadium

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Record: Western 1-5-1, Morehead 0-7

Series: The Hilltoppers lead 32-7-2.

Last year: Morehead won 17-13 at home.

The key: If Glendell Miller doesn't return to the Western lineup, the Toppers will be missing half of their scoring punch. And if Miller is out, the burden will fall on the shoulders of quarterback Scott Travis and tailback Danny Embree. If they can take up the slack, Western will post its fourth straight Homecoming victory.

"Whenever you do that, you lose a lot of your consistency and you make mistakes a veteran team wouldn't."

The Eagles have been hit by a series of injuries to their defense. Couple that with a freshman-dominated offense and it's easy to

Hanlin has been splitting time with Adrian Breen, but Hanlin will start Saturday. Neither quarterback is afraid to throw and Breen really likes to put it up.

See TOPS  
Page 27, Column 1

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Photo by Ron Bell

A Western soccer player is tackled by two Transylvania players during a recent match. Western will face Tennessee Tech Sunday. See story, Page 27.

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Phi Mu. I Love You! Especially Big Sister Carol! Love, GENT-ly

Keith Board. How's your UNDERWEAR? Happy Halloween! Your Intruder

Bandits. Congratulations on a winning season. Especially you, number 5. Keep it up, guys. Leigh

Darth Vaden. Have you hugged your Big Sis today? Love, Cyndi

Darragh. I'm sorry I took you for granted. Please honor me with your presence on Homecoming Day. Love, Scott

Deadline for classifieds is 4 p.m. two days prior to publication.



# Tops look for season's 2nd win

— Continued from Page 25 —

see why the Eagles have not been flying so high.

Morehead comes off a 14-3 loss to Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, Tenn. Tech has been Western's only victim this season.

The only highlight for the Eagles was the performance of quarterback Mike Hanlin, who hit 12 of 22 passes.

Three weeks ago against Austin Peay, he completed 31 of 54 passes for 294 yards, but he couldn't get his team into the end zone in the 13-3 loss.

On the season he's 49 of 97 for 442 yards and one touchdown. He's been intercepted three times. Hanlin is 44 of 95 for 446 yards. He has thrown one touchdown and four interceptions.

Mark Ledford, the OVC's leading receiver, has caught 38 passes for 377 yards and one touchdown. David Thurkill is next on the team with 18 catches for 172 yards. Ledford also leads the OVC in punt returns, averaging 12.7 yards a return.

"Four of our five starting offensive linemen are freshmen, which certainly has been a big part of our lack of offense," Looney said. "We had a 17-play drive last week against Tennessee Tech that resulted in only three points. Right now, consistency is our big problem."

Western will be able to look for the pass most of the game — provided it stops Morehead's running attack. But that hasn't been a problem for anybody yet.

The team is averaging only 20.1 yards a game rushing and the team leader is not even ranked among the OVC's top 10 in rushing.

The defense has allowed 27 touchdowns, the most in the OVC. Morehead is giving up an average of 23 points per game.

Randy Frazier is fourth in the OVC in tackles with 79 hits. His 51 solo tackles is second in the conference.

Even with all the negative aspects of the team though, Western coach Jimmy Feix isn't going to take Morehead sitting down, especially after last week's game.

"Having a letdown is a real concern of ours," Feix said. "We don't

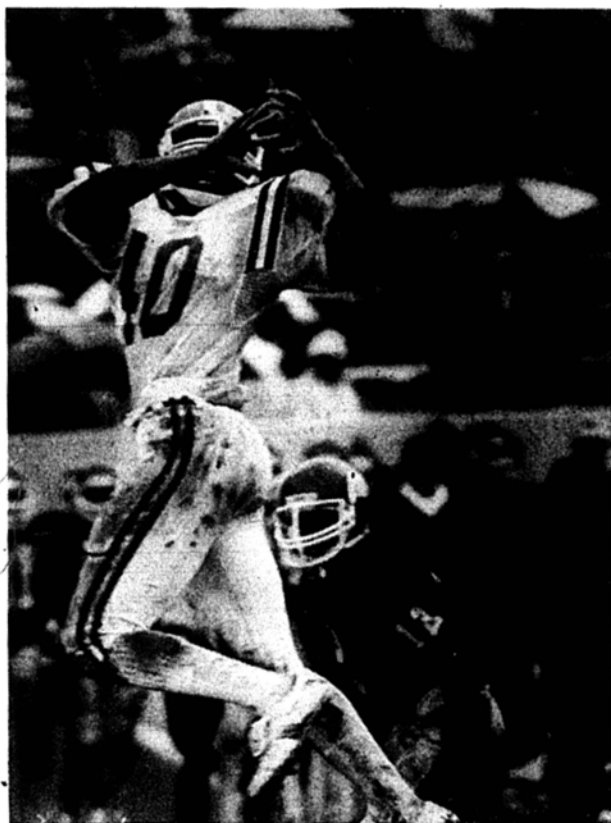


Photo by Rick Musacchio

Larry Hester tries to catch a pass against Eastern. The Toppers hope to win their second game of the season Saturday against Morehead.

want to have a letdown after playing so well against Eastern."

"The real challenge for us is to score," Feix said. "We're going to need to score first and early to take the game away from them."

If Miller is out, the offensive burden will fall on Travis and Embree. Travis has yet to have a really big game, but he'll need it if Miller is out. Travis has hit 58 of 129 passes for 741 yards.

Embree, though, should be able to take up the slack on the ground. Embree led the team in rushing

last week with 63 yards.

Western comes into the game averaging 267 yards a game on offense while giving up 305 yards defensively a game. Western's biggest hurt has been defending the running game, which shouldn't be a problem this weekend.

"Western will be pumped up for the game," Looney said. "Our win last year certainly will help the revenge factor."

"It's Western's Homecoming and I'm sure their coaches have been telling them that if they win their last four games, they'll be over .500," he said.

"Our goal is to win the Sun Belt Conference or to at least do well," he said.

A win at Tech probably would put Western against Alabama-Birmingham in the conference tourney.

The coach said UAB, 7-6, would be an easier opponent for the Toppers than the Old Dominion team they played last year. ODU is ranked 18th in the country and league leader South Florida is ranked 19th.

Papaioannou said his team is playing better now than it ever has. He said his mid-field is working well together and the defense, which was slow getting started this year, has improved in recent weeks.

## Soccer

Toppers.

Papaioannou said he doesn't think the layoff will hurt his team. "We will be ready."

Last season Tech won 1-0 and spoiled Western's chances for a winning season.

But Papaioannou said this team isn't the same one that Tech beat last year. "Generally, everybody is playing good," he said. "We are an improved team."

Papaioannou said he isn't overlooking Tech but he is preparing the team for the Sun Belt tournament.

## Western looking for winning season

By STEVE THOMAS

When Western plays at Tennessee Tech Sunday the Toppers will be looking for a win that would virtually clinch fourth place in the Sun Belt Conference and would guarantee their first winning season.

The game begins at 1 p.m.

Western won an earlier meeting here by a 2-1 margin and Coach Neophytos Papaioannou said he expects a "a close game and a physical game. But we should be able to pull it out."

Part of Papaioannou's confidence is a result of the excellent practices his team has had this week. Western has been idle since Monday when Asbury forfeited to the

## Congratulations to the new KD Big Brothers

Kevin Atwood  
Mike Ballenger  
Rob Little  
Steve Nicholson  
Bob Pulaski  
Ronnie Turner



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Admission \$1

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8 p.m.  
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